



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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MINERALS PROGRAM
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Myron Bateman
Director, Environmental Health
Tooele County Health Department
47 South Main, Room 300
Tooele, Utah 84074

Re: Timberline Heap Leach Closure

Myron
Dear Mr. Bateman:

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control (the Bureau) has learned that Mr. Ed Pharris, Owner of Timberline Industries, has authorized the Tooele County Health Department to decommission the entire heap leach facility. The information was conveyed to Mr. Charlie Dietz of our staff in a telephone conversation by Mr. Matt Triho of your staff. Mr. Pharris was made aware of reports of dead animals found at the site and concerns about public health, in writing by your staff.

The Bureau concurs with the county's decision to neutralize process fluids in the process ponds and tanks, and the subsequent disposal thereof. Contents of barrels found on the site will be removed, neutralized and disposed of properly. Then, barrels will be rinsed three times. The rinsate will be properly disposed of. Mr. Scott Anderson of the Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste has reviewed this matter and has concurred with the procedure.

The county is preparing an appropriate procedure for neutralization of the heap leach pad and the process ponds. The pad and the ponds will be neutralized and decommissioned following a review of the procedure by the Bureau.

In light of these developments, an inspection to evaluate the site conditions, scheduled on 1 May 1989, is not necessary and is cancelled.

Coordination and cooperation of your staff in this matter is sincerely appreciated. Please contact Mr. Dietz if there are any questions.

Sincerely,
Utah Water Pollution Control Committee

Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

CGD/ag
cc: Wayne Hedberg, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
BLM, Salt Lake City
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